



# **In Search of What?**

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## IN SEARCH – OF WHAT?

Today's society, probably as never before, is marked by a spirit of restlessness. People are in search of many things. Maybe we have friends who have been on holiday. 'Where did you go?' is the usual question. 'We went to the South of France', 'Spain', 'Tenerife'. Possibly it was Tunisia or Greece. 'Why did you go there?' we ask. 'Oh, we were in search of the sun'.

Perhaps we know people who are continually at the Estate Agents and off viewing property. 'Why aren't you settled in your present home?' we enquire. 'Well, we are really looking for a cottage in the country'. On a more sombre note, there are many who trudge constantly to the job centre; they eagerly await the publishing of the weekly paper and are quick to scan its adverts, they are searching for employment. So one could go on. Humankind is always in pursuit of some object. Sadly however,

very few are searching for that which is all important.

The Bible tells us of a man who was questing after God. His name was Job (pronounced 'Jobe'). In the section of Holy Scripture which he wrote, he said: "*Oh that I knew where I might find **Him!***" (Job 23:3). 'That is not my problem', you say. 'I am not concerned with religion. I am certainly not searching for God'. Friend, it may be that you are not, but if you continue in a Godless state, the time will come when you will wish you **had** searched. The Word of God says: "*Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near*" (Isaiah 55:6).

All people of all generations of human history have one day to stand before their Maker. In that day it is stated that fear shall come upon the Godless as a desolation and destruction as a whirlwind. Then shall they call upon Him but He will not answer; they shall seek Him early but shall not find Him

(cf Proverbs 1:27-28). As you read this booklet, the message to you is: *“It is time to seek the Lord”* (Hosea 10:12).

This man Job was in desperate straits. Tragedy after tragedy had overtaken him; life had become well-nigh unbearable. His children had all died in a disaster; his flourishing agricultural enterprise was devastated by a prairie fire, then he was smitten with a loathsome disease. On top of all that, although in such fearful adversity, his wife proved to be of no help or support to him. Everything had gone wrong. ‘To whom can I turn?’ he asks. ‘No one can help me in my situation. I am in need of a power outside of this life. I want the Almighty God’. *“Oh that I knew where I might find Him!”* ‘I must have vital contact with God’.

Job was not making any stipulations as to where and how; he was not working out some scheme or means whereby perhaps he could gain God’s favour. No, he was in dead earnest. ‘I must get

access to God; I am making no conditions, whatever the cost may be, I want God in my life'. 'Don't be foolish!' many would say. 'You must be mad talking like that; you want to sober down and get control of yourself; the tide will turn again; you are just going through a bad patch; don't over react; the last thing you want to do is to get religious'.

This man Job was neither foolish nor lacking in emotional balance; he was acting in the most reasonable manner in which a man could act. Oh, that men and women of this generation were as wise and prudent as was Job! The great calamity of the present day is society's Godlessness. The New Testament states, "*There is none that seeketh after God*" (Romans 3:11).

This small booklet is written to set forth spiritual truth as it is clearly stated in Holy Scripture, and to call men and women to repent of their sin and self-pleasing, and turn to the true and living God. A failure to treat these matters seriously and search

out the real truth is the height of folly. *“God... now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained”* (Acts 17:30-31).

You, the reader, could now be saying: ‘This booklet is unsettling me, I find these quotations from the Bible very disturbing’. This is exactly what the Word of God is designed to do. It is *“a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces”* (Jeremiah 23:29). Stony hearts and hardened consciences can only be shattered by the Scriptures of Truth as they come to individuals in the power of the Holy Spirit. Only in this way can a change of thought be brought about which will cause a person to ‘seek the Lord’.

Of himself, man will never do it; the desire for God is quite contrary to human nature. Man prides himself in his ability, his self-sufficiency and adequacy, but this is a delusion. Apart from God, humans are lost and spiritually dead, totally

inadequate to understand and cope with moral and eternal issues which are the fundamental aspects of life. The Bible clearly states that those without God and Christ are without hope (cf Ephesians 2:12); a hopeless existence with no future whatsoever other than, after death, the judgment (cf Hebrews 9:27). ‘This is serious’ you say. It is serious. Dead serious!

Perhaps now, reader, as you consider this, you are beginning to think as Job did, “*Oh that I knew where I might find Him!*” ‘Go on’, you say, ‘tell me more, answer now some of my questions. Where can I find God? If I find Him, can these disturbing fears be allayed? Is there hope for me? Can I be assured that all my sins and shortcomings will be forgiven? Will it be alright at the last? Shall I have real peace and confidence? Will heaven be secured for me? Shall I escape coming judgment?’

Let us go back to the initial question: ‘Where can I find God?’ If this question is satisfactorily answered



then the others are irrelevant, for all are covered. **You will find God in Jesus Christ**; but this must be more fully explained to you. The eternal God in His person is intrinsically holy. No man can see His face and live (cf Exodus 33:20). Man, being a sinner can never approach God; but God came into this world in the person of His Son, as a man.

This was the Lord Jesus Christ – God manifested in flesh. He came as a Surety and as a Substitute for sinners, to live as a Man, and to perfectly obey the Law of God in all its minute detail; which He did – the only being that has ever set foot on this planet who fully kept the Commandments. Having kept and made honourable God’s Holy Law, He did it in the capacity of a Substitute; standing in for the sinner under a deed of Suretyship. This is known as the preceptive aspect of Christ’s work of atonement (perfectly keeping every precept).

Not only did He, as the sinners’ Surety, fulfil the Law, He also died on others’ behalf; for man,

having broken God's Law, came under the penal sentence of that Law, which is death. So Christ also died a substitutionary death. He died the Just for the unjust that He might bring us to God (cf 1 Peter 3:18). The sentence of death which was upon the sinner was transferred to the Substitute. He bore our sins and the penalty of them in His own body on the tree (cf 1 Peter 2:24). Divine justice poured out its vengeance upon the Saviour in the sinners' stead. This is the Biblical meaning of the word 'atonement'. It is the righteous claim of a Holy God, both preceptive and penal, being met by another – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because the Divine Law has been satisfied both as to its precepts and penalty, offending sinners can be reconciled to God. Those who by faith repent and come to Christ for salvation are reconciled. So the search is over; the question answered; God is found in Christ who made atonement. He is the Mediator who, by virtue of His redemptive work, brings God

and man together. We are “*reconciled to God by the death of His Son*” (Romans 5:10).

It is the prayer of the writer, that you the reader will search into this all important and vital matter, upon which depends your eternal future after death. It is only through God’s great salvation which was accomplished by Christ Jesus, that you can pass from your present position of spiritual death, into spiritual life (cf John 5:24). By so doing you will be prepared to meet your God (cf Amos 4:12). Without a shadow of doubt, this must be your most urgent quest.

W. H. Molland (1920 – 2012)

the 1990s, the number of people who have been employed in the public sector has increased in all countries.

There are several reasons for the increase in public sector employment. First, the public sector has become an important source of employment for women. Second, the public sector has become an important source of employment for young people. Third, the public sector has become an important source of employment for people with low skills. Fourth, the public sector has become an important source of employment for people with low income. Fifth, the public sector has become an important source of employment for people with low education.

The increase in public sector employment has led to a number of problems. First, the public sector has become a source of inefficiency.

Second, the public sector has become a source of corruption. Third, the public sector has become a source of unemployment.

Fourth, the public sector has become a source of social inequality. Fifth, the public sector has become a source of economic stagnation.

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